

HOUSE BILL 1555

E4

EMERGENCY BILL

0lr3610

By: **Delegate Conway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 15, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Funds – Distribution of Money to Companies**
3 **Outside the State**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the entities to which money from the Senator William H.
5 Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund may be distributed to include fire,
6 rescue, and ambulance companies located outside the State under certain
7 circumstances; altering the volunteer fire, rescue, and ambulance companies to
8 which grants or loans may be awarded under the Volunteer Company
9 Assistance Fund to include companies located outside the State under certain
10 circumstances; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating
11 to the distribution of money under the Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue,
12 and Ambulance Fund and the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Public Safety
15 Section 8–102(a) and (b), 8–201(a), (b), and (d), 8–202(a), and 8–203(a) and (b)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Public Safety
20 Section 8–103(b)(1) and 8–201(e)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2003 Volume and 2009 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 8–102.

2 (a) There is a Senator William H. Amoss Fire, Rescue, and Ambulance Fund.

3 (b) The purposes of the Fund are to promote:

4 (1) the delivery of effective and high quality fire protection, rescue,
5 and ambulance services in the State;

6 (2) increased financial support for fire, rescue, and ambulance
7 companies by counties; and

8 (3) the continued financial viability of volunteer fire, rescue, and
9 ambulance companies given the greatly increased costs of equipment.

10 8–103.

11 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (6) of this subsection, each county shall
12 distribute the money provided under this subtitle on the basis of need to fire, rescue,
13 and ambulance companies, departments, or stations in the county, including
14 companies, departments, or stations:

15 (I) located in municipal corporations; OR

16 (II) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY,
17 DEPARTMENT, OR STATION:

18 1. HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND STATE
19 FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION FOR AT LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND

20 2. HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.

21 8–201.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Association” means the Maryland State Firemen’s Association.

24 (d) “Fund” means the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

25 (e) “Volunteer company” means a volunteer ambulance, fire, or rescue
26 company:

27 (1) located in the State; OR

28 (2) LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STATE IF THE COMPANY:

1 **(I) HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR AT**
2 **LEAST THE PAST 10 YEARS; AND**

3 **(II) HAS A FIRST DUE RESPONSE AREA IN THE STATE.**

4 8–202.

5 (a) There is a Volunteer Company Assistance Fund.

6 8–203.

7 (a) The purpose of the Fund is to ensure adequate fire protection and rescue
8 services in the State.

9 (b) A grant or loan awarded under this section shall be used only for
10 purchasing, replacing, or improving:

11 (1) equipment, including elevated equipment, pumpers, tankers,
12 ladder trucks, ambulances, rescue vehicles, or other large equipment used for fire
13 fighting and emergency services;

14 (2) communications equipment;

15 (3) protective equipment, including helmets, turnout coats and pants,
16 boots, eyeshields, gloves, and self-contained respiratory protection units;

17 (4) any other equipment necessary to carry out the ordinary functions
18 of supporting fire fighting and rescue activities; or

19 (5) facilities used to house fire fighting equipment, ambulances, and
20 rescue vehicles.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
22 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
23 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
24 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
25 the date it is enacted.